

## **Little Elk Creek Area Wide Pilot Project Cecil County, Maryland**

The Little Elk Creek watershed in Cecil County, Maryland has been selected as an Area-Wide Pilot Project under U.S. EPA's One Cleanup Program and Land Revitalization Agenda (OCP / LRA) initiatives. The Little Elk Creek Pilot Project is an unique opportunity to address a wide-spread groundwater contamination problem stemming from multiple industrial sources within a geographic area. The surrounding area is a growing new bedroom community for the cities of Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore and development of the area, particularly residential development, is impacted by the wide spread contamination. The goal of the Little Elk Creek Pilot Project is to develop a collaborative, cross-programmatic approach to address the groundwater contamination problem and support development and reuse needs of the surrounding community.

### **Background**

- The target area is an industrial park and properties surrounding it that has both operating and closed facilities. Historically, the area was first used as a fireworks and munitions production facility supplying military ordnance for World War II. Since closure of the munitions plant following the war, other manufacturing and industrial users moved into the area. Dump sites and buried munitions can be found throughout the project area. Several of these facilities are under investigation and/or cleanup orders under EPA's and the State's CERCLA and RCRA cleanup programs. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has identified portions of the target area as a Formerly Used Defense Site.
- Also linked to the target area are two nearby National Priorities List sites where contaminants associated with the NPL sites may have also been dumped in the target area. The NPL sites are Sand Gravel and Stone and Spectron/Galaxy.
- Groundwater investigations throughout the area show widely distributed TCE and PCE contamination. Perchlorate is another recently discovered contaminant of concern in the groundwater that warrants further study. Several residential wells in the area have been closed and homeowners placed on bottled water.

### **Stakeholders**

- U.S. EPA partners in the Area Wide Pilot include the Brownfields, RCRA Corrective Action, CERCLA, Federal Facilities, Water Protection and Chesapeake Bay Programs. Other federal partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Partners within the Maryland Department of Environment include the

Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup, CERCLA and RCRA programs.

- Local partners include the Cecil County Health Department???

## **Initial Goals, Objectives and Needs**

Initial, near-term goals and objectives of the Pilot promote the OCP / LRA initiatives by:

- Creating a collaborative working environment between state and EPA cleanup programs to address a wide spread contamination problem affecting multiple properties.
- Educating EPA and state agency staff on One Cleanup Program and Land Revitalization principles and incorporating these principles into the pilot project.
- Synthesizing data analysis from different types of environmental studies and assessments to foster one cleanup program objectives.
- Investigating innovative approaches to release of liability across a multi-site area that will provide exposure protection while allowing redevelopment to occur in the area.
- Incorporating community needs for the reuse of sites into cleanup planning decisions.

## **Key Activities**

- A planning meeting between EPA and MDE project managers to identify goals and objectives for the pilot project, develop a workplan, and identify activities and resources will be held on January 28, 2004.
- Develop a workplan with short term and long term objectives for the pilot project by March 2004.
- Analyze data from site investigations to identify cross contamination issues and to develop an understanding of the overall contamination problem facing the geographic area.
- Engage the local community in the cleanup and redevelopment process to assure that community needs are met. Identify community groups, including development and industrial interests, and solicit their input into the goals of the project and the workplan.
- Investigate development opportunities for the area and identify ways to foster reuse for the community.